

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 IO-12

OMB-01 T-03 RSR-01 /094 W
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R 121411 Z MAR 73
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1034
USINT CAIRO

UNCLAS BEIRUT 2810

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, EG
SUBJECT: PURGE OF WRITERS IN EGYPT

REF: BEIRUT 2653

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: MAR 10 BEIRUT PRESS CONTAINS NEW DETAILS RE RECENT PURGES OF WRITERS IN EGYPT, INCLUDING NAMES OF 53 DISMISSED PERSONS (INCLUDING THOSE REPORTED REFTEL) AND ALLEGED TEXT OF ARTICLE BY AHMED BAHAEDDINE THAT WAS CENSORED IN AL AHRAH AND WHICH APPARENTLY HELPED CAUSE HIS DOWNFALL. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO INDEPENDENT AL JARIDA, FORMER AHRAH COLUMNIST AHMED BAHAEDDINE HAS BEEN GIVEN NEW JOB AS ADVERTISING MANAGER AT EGYPT'S STATE- RUN BATA SHOE FACTORY. AT SAME TIME, LEFTIST, ALGERIAN- BACKED WEEKLY AL BALAGH PUBLISHED TEXT OF WHAT IT SAID WAS BAHAEDDINE'S ARTICLE BANNED FROM AHRAH FEB 18. GIST OF ARTICLE, ENTITLED " ALTERNATIVE TO FEAR", FOLLOWS:

3. BAHAEDDINE BEGAN BY PRAISING SADAT'S " CORRECTIVE MOVEMENT" OF MAY 1971 IN WHICH ALI SABRI AND FOLLOWERS WERE DISMISSED. HE THEN RECALLED HIS PREVIOUS APPEALS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF " MODERN STATE" IN EGYPT FOR

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" DIALOGUE" BETWEEN EGYPT' S " PRINCIPAL FORCES", I. E., CONSERVATIVES, PROGRESSIVES, LIBERALS AND TECHNOCRATS. NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT IN MEANTIME EGYPTIAN NATIONAL UNITY HAD COME UNDER THREAT FROM " TWO EMERGING, IMPORTANT FORCES, REACTIONARY RIGHT AND ADVENTURIST LEFT. FORMER, IN MY OPINION, IS WAITING TO BRING BACK ' ANCIEN REGIME' IN ONE STROKE. ADVENTURIST LEFT DOES NOT COMPRISE ENTIRE ' LEFT', BUT ONLY THOSE SCHOOLS, INFLUENCED BY MARCUSE AND OTHERS, WHICH ABSOLUTELY REJECT EVERYTHING -- (WHETHER) TRADITIONAL MARXISM, CAPITALISM OR DEMOCRACY. BOTH FORCES REJECT DIALOGUE APART FROM REACTIONARY RIGHT, THERE ARE ALSO ENLIGHTENED CONSERVATIVES WHO CARE MORE FOR THEIR HOMELAND THAN FOR PERSONAL VENGEANCE. AND APART FROM ADVENTURIST LEFT, THERE EXIST OTHER (LEFTISTS) WHO ARE NOT SEPARATE FROM MAIN CURRENTS OF EGYPTIAN POPULAR MOVEMENT." BAHAEDDINE SAID HE REALIZED HIS ANALYSIS OF EGYPTIAN " LEFT" AND " RIGHT" WOULD OPEN HIM TO CHARGE OF ATTEMPTING " COMPROMISE", BUT ADDED: " IT WOULD BE MORE CORRECT TO SAY THAT HE WHO INSISTS ON REALIZATION OF NATIONAL UNITY THROUGH RESPONSIBLE DIALOGUE IS LIKE MAN HOLDING LIVE COALS IN HIS HANDS, SINCE HE WILL COME UNDER ATTACK FROM ALL QUARTERS FOR INSISTING THAT DIALOGUE MUST DEAL WITH CONCRETE ISSUES WHICH CANNOT BE ENVELOPED IN FACILE GENERALIZATIONS. WE WANT EGYPT UNITED IN ORDER TO CONFRONT THE MOST DANGEROUS SITUATION ANY NATION, STATE OR RULER MUST FACE. WE WANT ALL OF EGYPT TO BE ALIVE, PULSATING, COMMITTED, THINKING, STUDYING AND ACTING."

4. BALAGH ALSO REPORTED THAT ANOTHER BAHAEDDINE ARTICLE, WHICH DEALT WITH SHOOTING- DOWN OF LIBYAN AIRLINER AND FEB 21 ISRAELI RAID ON NORTH LEBANON, HAD BEEN BANNED FROM AHRAH FEB 25. MAGAZINE WENT ON TO LIST FOLLOWING JOURNALISTS WHO IT CLAIMED " HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED TO EGYPTIAN INFORMATION SERVICE":

A. FROM ROSE AL YUSSEF: AHMED HAMROUSH, SALEH HAFEZ, FATHI KHALIL, AHMED EL AZHARI, AIDA EL AZAB, FOUAD KAOUD (POET), ZOHRI (CARTOONIST), ELHAM SEIF EL NASR, NASSER HUSSEIN, ADEL EL HUSSEINI, EL- SAYED EZZAT;

B. FROM GUMHOURAI: ADLI BARSOUM, ABDEL SALAM MOBARAK, MUSTAFA KAMAL, KAMAL EL EKESH, ABDEL AAL EL UNCLASSIFIED

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BAKOURI, MUHAMMAD ABUL HADITH, GALAL EL SAYED (EXECUTIVE

EDITOR OF LITERARY MONTHLY AL KATEB), OMAIMA ABU NASR
(HIS WIFE), ABDULLAH NAWAR, ABBAS EL ASWANI;

C. FROM AHRAH: AHMED BAHAEDDINE, GHALI SHUKRI,
ABDOU MOBASHER, HASSAN EL SHARKAWI, ZAKARIA NEIL (ARAB
AFFAIRS EDITOR), MUHAMMAD SALMAWI;

D. FROM DAR AL HILAL: IBRAHIM AMER (MANAGING
EDITOR OF AL MUSSAWAR), RAGA EL NAKKASH, RAGI ENAYET,
HILMI EL TONI;

E. FROM AL AKHBAR: MAHMOUD ABDEL AZIZ, SAYED EL
GABRI, ABDEL WAHAB MOUSSA, SAID EL SHARKAWI, FAROUK
ABDEL SALAM;

F. FROM CAIRO RADIO: REYA AL NIMR, MUHAMMAD
BARAKAT, HASSANEIN KARAM, FAROUK ABU ZEID;

G. FROM MENA: MUHAMMAD EL BIALI (MANAGING
EDITOR), KAMAL AMER, SALAH ABDEL LATIF, MAHMOUD EL SAADANI
(ARAB AFFAIRS EDITOR), MONA SHERIF, ALI MAHER, ANAS GAD
EL HAK, AHMED MALEK (BUREAU MANAGER, BEIRUT), RUSHDI
ABDULLAH, ALI SOLTAN, SAMI AMIN EL MEDAWI, AFAF EL
GBEILI, ADEL AMER.

5. FULL TEXT OF BALAGH STORY BEING POUCHED USINT CAIRO.
BUFFUM

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BEIRUT02810
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730325/aaaahmjy.tel
Line Count: 146
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 BEIRUT 2653
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15-Oct-2001 by hagers>; APPROVED <07 FEB 2002 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 971119
Subject: PURGE OF WRITERS IN EGYPT
TAGS: PINT, EG
To: CAIRO
NEA
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005